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Talking Technology in Cantonese

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Traditional Chinese

Jyutping

cing4 sik1 cit3 gai3 jyun4 zoi6 daa2 din6 jau4
neoi5 jan2 zing3 zoi6 jong6 sau2 tai4 din6 waa2 cyun4 dyun2 seon3
mou5 can1 zing3 zoi6 daa2 din6 waa2 kap1 neoi5 ji4
neoi5 ji4 zing3 zoi6 zip3 teng1 sau2 tai4 din6 waa2
naam4 jan2 zing3 zoi6 lau4 laam5 wu6 lyun4 mong5

English

The programmer is typing the e-mail.
The woman is texting on her cellular phone.
The mother is calling her daughter.
The daughter is answering the mobile phone.
The man is surfing the internet on the computer.

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Vocabulary

Traditional	Jyutping	English
	naam4 jan2	man
	sau2 tai4 din6 waa2	mobile phone, cellphone
	cing4 sik1 cit3 gai3 jyun4	programmer
	din6 jau4	e-mail, email
	neoi5 jan2	woman
	cyun4 dyun2 seon3	to text, to send text message
	din6 waa6	telephone
	zip3 teng1	to answer (phone)
	neoi5 ji4	daughter
	mou5 can1	mother
	wu6 lyun4 mong5	internet
	lau4 laam5	to surf (internet), to browse

Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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naam5 jan2 zoi6 lin6 zaap6 kyun4 gik1 gei6 haau2	The man is practicing his boxing skills.
neoi5 ji4 zing3 zoi6 zip3 teng1 sau2 tai4 din6 waa2	The daughter is answering the mobile phone.
cing4 sik1 cit3 gai3 jyun4 zoi6 jung6 din6 nou5	The programmer is using the computer.
cing4 sik1 cit3 gai3 jyun4 zoi6 daa2 din6 jau4	The programmer is typing the e-mail.
neoi5 jan2 zing3 zoi6 caat3 ngaa4	The woman is brushing her teeth.
neoi5 jan2 zing3 zoi6 jong6 sau2 tai4 din6 waa2 cyun4 dyun2 seon3	The woman is texting on her cellular phone.
jau5 mou5 ngo5 din6 waa2?	Are there any phone calls for me?
neoi5 ji4 zing3 zoi6 zip3 teng1 sau2 tai4 din6 waa2	The daughter is answering the mobile phone.
mou5 can1 duk6 syu1 kap1 neoi5 ji4 ting1	The mother reads to her daughter.
mou5 can1 duk6 syu1 kap1 neoi5 ji4 ting1	The mother reads to her daughter.
naam4 jan2 zing3 zoi6 lau4 laam5 wu6 lyun4 mong5	The man is surfing the internet on the computer.

naam4 jan2 zing3 zoi6 lau4 laam5 wu6 lyun4 mong5	The man is surfing the internet on the computer.

Grammar Points

The focus of this lesson is tense comparison in Cantonese.
Present tense, Present Progressive tense, and Past tense

In this lesson you'll learn the difference between the different tenses in the Cantonese language: present tense, present progressive tense, and past tense.

1.

cing4 sik1 cit3 gai3 jyun4 zoi6 daa2 din6 jau4

"The programmer is typing the e-mail."

Tense	Cantonese	Romanization	English
non-past tense		*cing4 sik1 cit3 gai3 jyun4 daa2 din6 jau4*	"The programmer types the e-mail."
present progressive tense		*cing4 sik1 cit3 gai3 jyun4 zoi6 daa2 din6 jau4*	"The programmer is typing the e-mail."
past tense		*cing4 sik1 cit3 gai3 jyun4 daa2 liu5 din6 jau4*	"The programmer typed the e-mail."

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2.

neoi5 jan2 jong6 sau2 tai4 din6 waa2 cyun4 dyun2 seon3

"The woman is texting on her cellular phone."

Tense	Cantonese	Romanization	English
non-past tense		*neoi5 jan2 jong6 sau2 tai4 din6 waa2 cyun4 dyun2 seon3*	"The woman texts on her cellular phone."
present progressive tense		*neoi5 jan2 jong6 sau2 tai4 din6 waa2 cyun4 dyun2 seon3*	"The woman is texting on her cellular phone."
past tense		*neoi5 jan2 jong6 sau2 tai4 din6 waa2 cyun4 liu5 dyun2 seon3*	"The woman texted on her cellular phone."

3.

    mou5 can1 zing3 zoi6 daa2 din6 waa2 kap1 neoi5 ji4

"The mother is calling her daughter."

Tense	Cantonese	Romanization	English
non-past tense		*mou5 can1 daa2 din6 waa2 kap1 neoi5 ji4*	"The mother calls her daughter."
present progressive tense		*mou5 can1 zing3 zoi6 daa2 din6 waa2 kap1 neoi5 ji4*	"The mother is calling her daughter."
past tense		*mou5 can1 daa2 liu5 din6 waa2 kap1 neoi5 ji4*	"The mother called her daughter."

4.

    neoi5 ji4 zing3 zoi6 zip3 teng1 sau2 tai4 din6 waa2

"The daughter is answering the mobile phone."

Tense	Cantonese	Romanization	English
non-past tense		*neoi5 ji4 zip3 teng1 sau2 tai4 din6 waa2*	"The daughter answers the mobile phone."
present progressive tense		*neoi5 ji4 zing3 zoi6 zip3 teng1 sau2 tai4 din6 waa2*	"The daughter is answering the mobile phone."
past tense		*neoi5 ji4 zip3 teng1 liu5 sau2 tai4 din6 waa2*	"The daughter answered the mobile phone."

5.
naam4 jan2 zing3 zoi6 lau4 laam5 wu6 lyun4 mong5
"The man is surfing the internet on the computer."

Tense	Cantonese	Romanization	English
present tense		*naam4 jan2 lau4 laam5 wu6 lyun4 mong5*	"The man surfs the internet on the computer."
present progressive tense		*naam4 jan2 zing3 zoi6 lau4 laam5 wu6 lyun4 mong5*	"The man is surfing the internet on the computer."
past tense		*naam4 jan2 lau4 laam5 gwo3 wu6 lyun4 mong5*	"The man surfed the internet on the computer."

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